

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10

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ASD/PA:COL. MUNCIE

ASD/ISA:MGEN BOWMAN

EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON

PM/ISP:TMATHISON

EUR/P:WGEHRON

EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION PROGRAM - PRESS RELEASE

1. THE FOLLOWING WAS RELEASED JAN 12 IN BONN, WEST GERMANY
AND IN WASHINGTON, DC. QUOTE:

ON JANUARY 11 AND 12, 1977, IN CONTINUATION OF THE FRG-US
NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING TANK STANDARDIZATION, MARTIN R.
HOFFMANN, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH
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GEORG LEBER, FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND STATE
SECRETARY DR. KARL SCHNELL IN BONN.

DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON STANDARDIZATION PROGRESS ACHIEVED
TO DATE, AND BOTH SIDES EMPHASIZED THEIR INTENTION TO
REACH UTMOST COMMONALITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TANK PROGRAMS.

MAJOR ISSUES WERE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

-- THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ITS
DECISION ON A 120MM GUN BY JANUARY 15, AS PREVIOUSLY
AGREED, AND THUS WILL POSTPONE DECISION UNTIL 30
DECEMBER 1977 IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER TEST AND
EVALUATION.

-- FURTHER, THE FRG INTENDS TO PROPOSE TO ITS PARLIAMENT
IN MARCH 1977 A SMOOTHBORE 120MM GUN FOR LEOPARD 2
PRODUCTION IN PURSUANCE OF THE JULY 1976 ADDENDUM, AND IN
ORDER TO MEET ITS SCHEDULE FOR FIELDING THE LEOPARD 2
TANK.

-- BOTH NATIONS AGREE THAT AS THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS
PROGRESS, THE MAIN GUN AND OTHER SUB-SYSTEMS WILL BE
CONSIDERED IN A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF MAIN BATTLE TANK
STANDARDIZATION. END QUOTE.

2. DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

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